

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method for developing a product comprising the steps of:
 2 generating an estimate of the cost of developing and manufacturing the
 3 product; and
 4 developing a plan to manufacture the product including parallel stages
 5 of product design, dimensional integration and manufacturing processes.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of generating the
 2 estimate comprises the step of:
 3 providing at least two distinct levels of information to support each
 4 one of a data entry field in the estimate, each level increasing in detail from a broad
 5 first level.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of developing the plan
 2 includes the steps of:
 3 defining customer deliverables;
 4 defining aids to create the customer deliverables; and
 5 defining analysis steps to support the deliverables.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein each of the steps of defining
 2 customer deliverables, aids and analysis are divided into sequential time cells.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 2 providing a plurality of menu selectable screen templates for
 3 displaying required information in each stage of the plan.

1 6. A method of product development comprising the steps of:
 2 generating an estimate of the cost of developing and manufacturing a
 3 product in response to a request for estimate for setting product requirements, the step
 4 of generating the estimate including:

- 5 providing at least two distinct levels of estimate information to
- 6 support each one of a data entry field in the estimate, each level increasing in detail
- 7 from a broad first level through each successive lower level.

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